

Town of Bethel
Town Council Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by K. Phillips. Present were K. Phillips, R. Campfield, M. Shaver, P Kough, V. Proctor and Town Clerk, Martha Hawkins.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by K. Phillips.

3. Trey Wallace with Pratt Insurance: Trey Wallace gave an overview of our insurance coverage. Property value on the Community House was increased by 4%. Overall, there is a \$55.00 increase in annual premiums.

4. Secretary's Report: P. Kough presented the July Council Special Meeting Minutes. R. Campfield made a motion to accept the minutes. V. Proctor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. P. Kough presented the July Council Meeting Minutes. R. Campfield made a motion to accept the minutes. V. Proctor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Town Clerk's Report: Town Clerk, Martha Hawkins presented the Town Clerk's report. V. Proctor made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's report. R. Campfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report:

a. Bills to be Paid: M. Shaver presented the bills to be paid. R. Campfield made a motion to pay the bills as presented. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report: M. Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report. Most of our bank accounts have been hacked. M. Shaver has an appointment with

the bank to resolve this problem. Until the problem is resolved the bank will not release any funds without M. Shaver's approval. V. Proctor made a motion to defer approval of the Treasurer's Report until this matter is settled. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Retention of Mike Smith as our Town Solicitor: Mike Smith was introduced to the Council and citizens. M. Smith will send us a copy of his standard engagement letter. Upon receipt of that letter, the Council will discuss the retention of Mr. Smith as our new town solicitor.

8. Issues Addressed to Town Solicitor:

a. Proposed Ordinance 9A.3.5 – Portable Manufactured Buildings:
Limitations: V. Proctor requested that J. Murray comment on the ordinance. J. Murray has not responded.

b. Cemetery Transfer: Ann Brumbley is looking for the deed. There has been no response from Eskridge about a deed for the new part of the cemetery. Barry Brumbley believes the old part was deeded over by a handshake. J. Murray has not responded to a request to look into this issue.

c. Complaint Process: V. Proctor contacted J. Murray regarding putting a second letter in the complaint process on the attorney's letterhead. J. Murray has not responded.

Given the Town Solicitor's schedule and her recent lack of responsiveness, P. Kough made a motion to ask J. Murray for a letter of resignation. V. Proctor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Condemnation of Chipman Property: Pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 2-4 of the Town Ordinances, President, K. Phillips appointed a Building Hazard Inspection Committee consisting of V. Proctor (Chair), P. Kough, and T. J. Parkinson. President Phillips directed the Committee to commence its inspection of the Chipman property pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 2-5 of the Town Ordinances. The Council identified the Captain Hopkins House on West Street as another potentially hazardous structure.

10. Final Council Vote on the Building and Site Design Standards Ordinance (Chapter 9D): V. Proctor made a motion to adopt the Building and Site Design Standards Ordinance (Chapter 9D). M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Building Permits: K. Phillips reported that one building permit was issued to K. Phillips for improvements under \$10,000.00. Another building permit was issued to Perez Marroquin for improvements under \$10,000.00.

K. Phillips said we need a form for renewals of permits. He said that he and M. Hawkins could work on this.

12. Comprehensive Plan Update: V. Proctor said he has spoken to Samantha Bulkilvish, and she is progressing on the housing and demographic tables. V. Proctor and P. Kough will work on editing the version of the comprehensive plan on the thumb drive.

13. Community House Rental Contract: A change will be made to the draft Rental Agreement to show that there will be no charge for Bethel citizens who have bereavement dinners at the Community House.

14. Old/New Business: P. Kough shared the draft of an email to be sent to Bryant Richardson and Tim Dukes regarding the cat situation in Bethel. She will email it to them as a citizen of Bethel.

Hank Graves reported that his brother Henley wants to increase the placement of speed limit signs and the solar speed signs in town.

15. Adjourn Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22.